RE. REPORTED GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION WITH ASSAM M.Ps ON DEPLOYMENT OF ARMY IN ASSAM

SHRI DAVID LEDGER (Assam): Mr. Vice-Chairman my point is concerning the Members of Parliament. Yesterday the honourable Home Minister while giving clarifications in this House had categorically stated that there was no connection between the decision of the Government to deploy army in Assam and the discussions held with the Members of Parliament. It I am not mistaken, he was very categorical in that. But yesterday when I was listening to the Hindi news bulletin in the evening on Doordarshan I heard the news reader clearly saying that the decision of the Government to deploy army in Assam was taken in view of the request sent held the Chief Minister and the discussions held with the Members of Parliament. That is number one. Two, In today's *Statesman* there is a report which says, "The Home Minister, Mr. S. B. Chavan, informed Parliament today that the army was sent to Assam to assist the civil authorities in nine districts of tse State after a request from the Chief Minister on September 8 and the discussions on related issues with all Members of Parliament from the State, individually and collectively." What I want to say is this, when both these things are clubbed together, it gives an impression that there was concurrence of the Members of Parliament on this matter. This could be misunderstood. I would request the Home Minister to clarify it.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): I had been very clear when I said that I had consulted the Members of Parliament and had discussions with them but did not fix any responsibility on them. I cannot be held responsible if the Press did not report me correctly.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY (Assam): Sir... *(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Please sit down.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Sir, I will take only a minute... *(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Ms. Chakravarty, please sit down. The Home Minister was very clear and the Press will take note it. He has made the position very clear. Now, there should be no doubt ... *(Interruptions)*... Ms. Chakravarty, please sit down... *(Interruptions)*... What ever you say will not go on record. Please sit down.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY:*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): I am sure the media will take note of what the Leader of the House has said... *(Interruptions)*... Mr. Thulasi Reddy.

RE. DROUGHT SITUATION IN RAYALASEEMA REGION, ANDHRA PRADESH

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, in the Rayalaseema and Telangana regions of Andhra Pradesh especially Cuddapah and Anantapur district, the drought situation is very very bad. Crops like groundnut, maize, paddy, pulses, sunflower etc., have been damaged. The loss incurred runs to hundreds of crores of rupees. The agricultural workers are without any work. Labour is migrating to the adjacent states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. There is no fodder for the cattle and cattle are being slaughtered in the slaughter houses. The situation is very serious. The hon. Minister for Law, Mr. Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy is from Rayalaseema and he knows, how bad the situation is. I request the Government to take some immediate steps so that there are no starvation deaths of suicides. The Government should take immediate measures on food-for-work basis?

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I would like to associate with him.

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*Not recorded.